

[County Clerk] Reminds Hoosier Voters About Recent Election Law Requirements

County Seat, IN - As absentee ballots are arriving in mailboxes across the county, [insert county and county clerk's name] is reminding Hoosier voters of absentee ballot and photo ID rights and responsibilities under recent election reforms.

[insert quote from clerk] "We're taking significant steps to ensure every legitimate Hoosier vote counts and is not discounted by someone seeking to threaten the integrity of our elections," Rokita said. "The absentee voting process has some new built-in safeguards that work hand-in-hand with Photo ID, and I want to be sure voters understand these new protections."

On March 29th county election boards began mailing absentee ballots to voters who have already filed an application to vote absentee. Under Indiana law, voters must meet certain criteria to qualify to vote absentee-by-mail--such as being out of town or confined to their residence due to illness on Election Day, but voters who are eligible to vote using this method are not required to show photo ID. April 30th marks the deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail.

Recent legislation has tightened election administrator's oversight on the absentee ballot process. A copy of the Absentee Voter's Bill of Rights is now required to be sent with each absentee ballot. Applicants are now required to affirm under penalties of perjury that the information set forth in the application is true, including the applicant's reason for requesting an absentee ballot. Anyone assisting a voter in completing the absentee ballot application or absentee ballot is now required to sign an affidavit indicating the assistance.

Additionally, the new law establishes penalties for electioneering or campaigning in the presence of a voter with an absentee ballot, and it prohibits party officials or others from completing absentee ballot information for voters.

Voters with questions regarding absentee voting or Photo ID may contact their county election official, or call the Hoosier Voter Hotline at 866-IN-1-VOTE (866-461-8683).

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